

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services New Freedom Initiative - Open Door Forum Series - Preliminary Topics

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a series of *New Freedom Initiative* (NFI) Open Door Forums to:

- Obtain ideas and issues from the public on actions that will remove barriers and promote community living alternatives
- Provide updates and answer questions on current CMS NFI activities described in *Progress on the Promise*.

The *New Freedom* Open Door Forum will complement the popular CMS Disability Open Door Forum. The NFI Forum will be devoted to issues and ideas related to barriers that impede the ability of both young and old individuals to live and participate fully in their communities.

The series will address the commitment made in the HHS *New Freedom* Report to the President for a task force process focused on Medicaid reform actions that can help remove barriers to community living and participation on the part of people with a disability (*Progress on the Promise*, March 2002, Item I.A.2). The forums represent the optimum method to communicate with the broadest array of stakeholders. They also represent the best method to facilitate participation on the part of people who might not otherwise be able to travel to a meeting. The tentative schedule includes:

CMS New Freedom Initiative Open Door Forum Series	
Proposed '03 Schedule	Preliminary Topics
March 31 2:00 pm	Federal Budget 2003 and President's 2004 Budget: Overview of budget process and selected NFI initiatives, including the President's proposed NFI budget for 2004. Click for background materials
April 30 4:00 pm	"Money Follows the Person": What is it and how can we achieve it? Discussion of the \$1.75 billion "Money Following the Person" initiative in the President's proposed budget submitted to Congress for 2004. Click for background materials
May 28 3:00 pm	Self-Directed Services: Discussion of the hallmarks of a viable self-directed program, including person-centered planning, individual budgets, self-directed supports and quality assurance and improvement. Additional ideas will be sought on how best to further the utilization of the CMS <i>Independence Plus</i> initiatives. Click for invitation and background materials
June 30 3:00 pm	Quality for Home and Community Based Services: Discussion of the essential elements and functions of quality assurance and improvement systems.
July 23 3:00 pm	Home and Community Based Services Future Directions: What changes are needed to facilitate community integration?
Aug 27 3:00 pm	Integrated Housing: Facilitating coordination of services with accessible and affordable housing.
Sept 24 3:00 pm	Employment: Discussion of current efforts and ideas for "next steps" to advance the employment of people who have a disability.
Oct 29 3:00 pm	Long Term Care Workforce Issues: Discussion of strategies to address workforce and retention problems.
Nov 19 3:00 pm	Federal Efforts to Improve Collaborations for Long Term Care Solutions: Discussion with the Office of Disability and other federal agencies.
Dec 17 3:00 pm	Mental Health Issues/Initiatives: Discussion of follow-up CMS initiatives related to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

How to Register for the NFI Open Door Forums

- Go to the following CMS web site: www.cms.hhs.gov
- Click on "Open Door Forums" under Initiatives in the left hand column. This web site has a chart of all 13 Open Door forums.
- Click on the "NFI Open Door Forum" to link with information on how to register.
- You may also click on and register for other Open Door Forums as well.

Materials to Help You Prepare for the NFI Open Door Forums

The NFI Open Door Forum web site described above will also have:

- Resource materials on the forum topic for that month.

- Discussion questions that CMS would like the audience to respond to during the forum.